MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member whether the majority of the headmasters were in favour of implementing the scheme this year itself?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: There was a full and free discussion with regard to the syllabus and I think that it was mainly concentrated on the various aspects of the syllabus. There was no definite understanding that it should depend upon the vote of the Headmaster whether the scheme should be introduced this year.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Headmasters were not for introducing the system this year?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Some were feeling that it may be too early this year, and some felt that they would make an honest trial.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But what was the concensus of the opinions?

PRESIDENT: Was the meeting convened for that purpose?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: The meeting was convened to discuss the syllabus.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member whether the Government are aware that most schools were not prepared for the scheme because of the lack of convenience, lack of preparations and the lack of arrangements for introducing the optional system which was suddenly imposed upon them.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: That is not quite correct. In every school, there is provision for the teaching of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and practically every branch. The only change that was made was that the boy or girl should take up any four of these subjects instead of taking the whole lot. So provision must certainly exist in every school.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether they have sufficient text books for teaching subjects like Chemistry, Economics etc. which are included in the optional subjects?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: There are sufficient number of text books, Sir.

English High School, Parur.

323. *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the sheds of the English High School, Parur have been thatched this year; and

(*b*) if so, when, and if not, why not?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In the month of Mithunam.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know from the member why it was not thatched early?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: We were trying to get a contractor for months. Each man was asking a different rate day after day. Finally one man came to save the situation and he was given the contract.

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MR. E K. MADHAVAN: May I know how long these pupils were exposed to sun and rain?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: It is not so bad as that. We people who live here, know that if you do not thatch in a particular month, it would be difficult to do it after the monsoon has set it. But the pupils will not absolutely be exposed to sun and rain.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether it will not be economical to have the building tiled instead of thatching each time?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Certainly. In view of the heavy cost of the cadjans, I have sent in a proposal to Government regarding to progressive tiling of such buildings.

MR P. G. THOMAS: May I know whether the honourable member knows that monsoon set in early in Edavam this year?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: He was aware, but did not anticipate it.

Permission to start English Middle Schools.

324. ❋MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muslim applicants who applied for permission to start English Middle Schools in the years 1119, 1120 and 1121 with respective places in which they wanted to start the schools; and

(*b*) to state the number of applications for which permission was granted and the number for which permission was denied?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI:

(*a*) 1119—Nil.
1120—One at Kaniapuram.
1121—Three (Kaniapuram, Chithara and Changanacherry).

(*b*) 1119—The question does not arise.
1120—The application was declined.
1121—The application for a new school at Kaniapuram was sanctioned, the school being permitted to be opened from 1947-48. The other two were ordered to lie over in view of the impending reforms of the middle schools next year.

English Schools.

325. ❋MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI (*Minachil* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of English schools started this year;

(*b*) whether any primary school was newly begun; and

(*c*) the number of schools of each category begun by the Government and by private agencies?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: (*a*) The question is vague.

(*b*) Yes.

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